

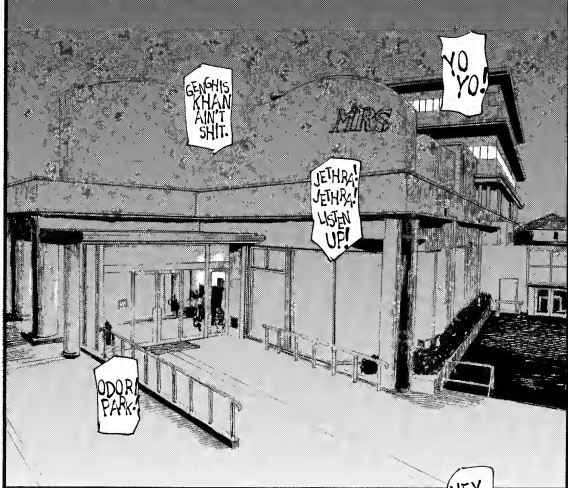


A PHENOMENAL NEO-FM DRAMA

wave LISTEN TO ME!

Chapter 23 YOU CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE.

HIROAKI SAMURA



M'KAY.

3:30
IN THE
MORNING.

IT'S
CURRENTLY
OCTOBER
4TH,



HEY,
GUY!

This is
Minare
Koda's
Wave,
Listen
to...

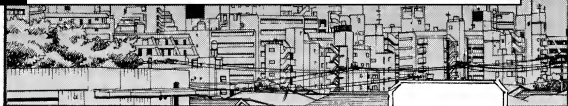
mee
hee!

I'M YOUR
SAPPORO
BIOLOGICAL
NOISE DIRECTOR,
MINARE KODA.

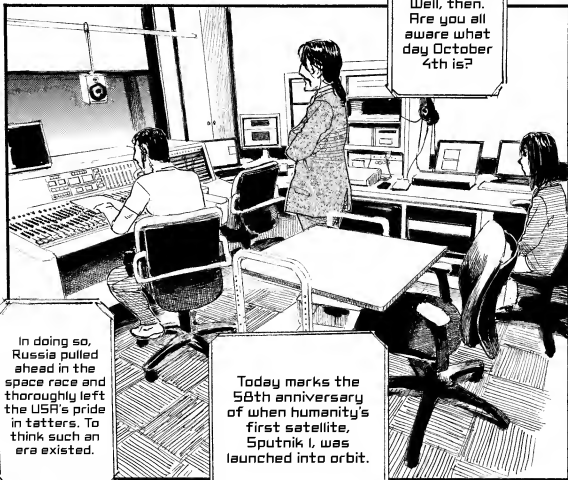
I CAN'T
HELP BUT
WONDER WHAT
YOU'RE ALL
HOPING FOR
BY STAYING UP
THIS LATE.

THE
STORY
SO
FAR

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MATO, AN FM STATION WORKER, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ. WITH HER THIRD SHOW UNDER HER BELT AND RATINGS HIGH, SHE FUMBLES WHILE TRYING TO PICK A THEME FOR HER FOURTH. AFTER HER PUBLIC SQUABBLE WITH HER FATHER FALLS FLAT, MINARE IS STUCK WITH USING ANOTHER OF MATO'S IDEAS, "LOVE CONSULTATION UNDER EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES." MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO'S TRANSITION TO A FULL-TIME NOVELIST BECOMES AN IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY.

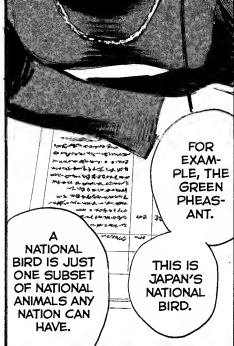


Well, then.
Are you all
aware what
day October
4th is?



In doing so,
Russia pulled
ahead in the
space race and
thoroughly left
the USA's pride
in tatters. To
think such an
era existed.

Today marks the
58th anniversary
of when humanity's
first satellite,
Sputnik 1, was
launched into orbit.



FOR
EXAM-
PLE, THE
GREEN
PHEAS-
ANT.

A
NATIONAL
BIRD IS JUST
ONE SUBSET
OF NATIONAL
ANIMALS ANY
NATION CAN
HAVE.

THIS IS
JAPAN'S
NATIONAL
BIRD.



ARE
YOU ALL
FAMILIAR
WITH THE
CONCEPT OF
NATIONAL
ANIMALS?

LITERALLY
ANIMALS
REPRE-
SENTING
A NATION.

"NATIONAL
ANIMALS."



UHH.
SPEAKING
OF RUSSIA...



WITH
THAT
LOVELY
SEGUE,
I HAVE A
CONFES-
SION TO
MAKE.

UHH.
ANY-
WAY...



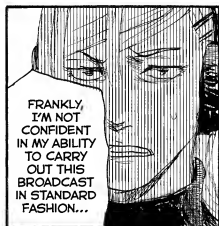
AS FOR
RUSSIA,
THEIR
NATIONAL
ANIMAL IS
THE BEAR.

AND NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT, I
BELIEVE THE
MASCOT FOR
THE 1980 MOS-
COW SUMMER
OLYMPICS, AS
WELL AS THE 2014
SOCHI WINTER
OLYMPICS WERE
BOTH BEARS.



AS WE
SPEAK,
I'M BEING
STARRED
DOWN...

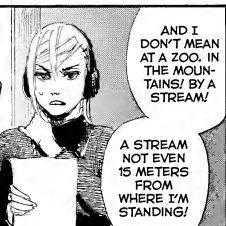
...BY A
BROWN
BEAR.



FRANKLY,
I'M NOT
CONFIDENT
IN MY ABILITY
TO CARRY
OUT THIS
BROADCAST
IN STANDARD
FASHION...



I
NEGLECT-
ED TO
MENTION,
BUT THIS
EPISODE
IS BEING
BROAD-
CAST
FROM MT.
SAPPORO.



AND I
DON'T MEAN
AT A ZOO. IN
THE MOUN-
TAINS! BY A
STREAM!

A STREAM
NOT EVEN
15 METERS
FROM
WHERE I'M
STANDING!



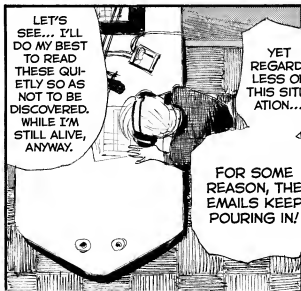
KOFF
KOFF

I didn't
know we
had that
kind of
sound...

"Bear
breath..."

I'VE
BEEN
LISTENING
SINCE
YOUR FIRST
BAFFLING
RADIO
DRAMA."

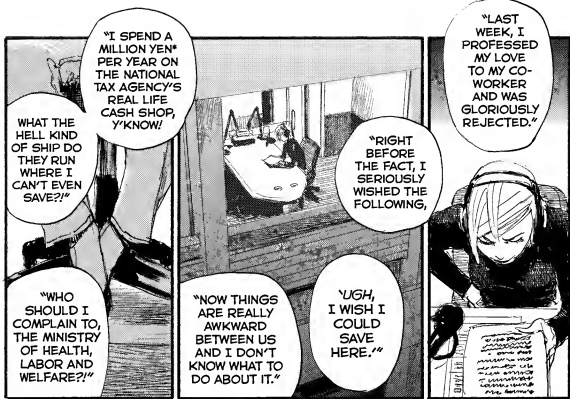
"GOOD
EVENING,
MISS
MINARE.



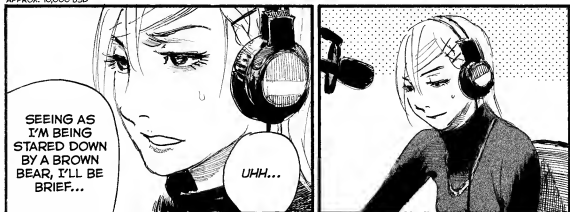
LET'S
SEE... I'LL
DO MY BEST
TO READ
THESE QUI-
ETLY SO AS
NOT TO BE
DISCOVERED.
WHILE I'M
STILL ALIVE,
ANYWAY.

YET
REGARD-
LESS OF
THIS SITU-
ATION...

FOR SOME
REASON, THE
EMAILS KEEP
POURING IN!



*APPROX. 10,000 USD



**KOTOOSHU KATSUNORI, A FORMER BULGARIA-BORN SUMO WRESTLER.

"ALSO,
SHE LAYS
PATCHES OF
EGGS EVERY
MORNING. I'M
ABSOLUTELY
TERRIFIED."

"THE GIRL
I'M DATING
HAS BEEN
KIND OF...
DIFFERENT
LATELY."

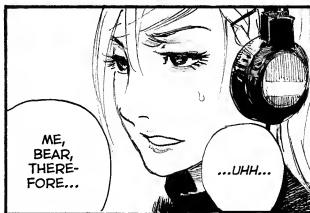
"GOOD
EVENING.
I'M AN UN-
SIGHTLY MAN
ATTENDING
A FASHION
VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL."

"SHOULD
I START A
RELIGION?"

"DO YOU
THINK MY
GIRLFRIEND
IS TURNING
INTO A NYMPH
OR SOME-
THING?"

"IN FACT,
BUTTERFLIES
ARE DRAWN
TO HER
ARMPITS AND
PRIVATES.
BUTTER-
FLIES!"

"RATHER,
SHE SMELLS
REALLY GOOD
FOR SOME
REASON."



ME,
BEAR,
THERE-
FORE...

...UHH...



70
FLAP



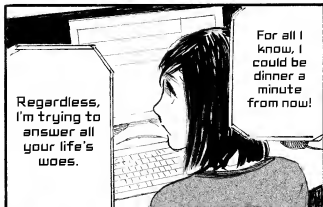
...LOOK AT
KOTOOSHU'S
BLOG AND
SOOTHE YOUR
WOUNDED
SOUL.



...AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I'LL LIVE THROUGH THIS BROADCAST!

UMM, LET ME REMIND YOU PEOPLE,

I'M CURRENTLY STANDING FACE TO FACE WITH A BROWN BEAR...



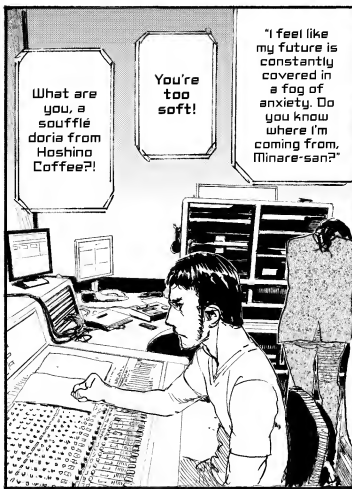
Regardless, I'm trying to answer all your life's woes.

For all I know, I could be dinner a minute from now!



"I'M TIRED OF PEER PRESSURE FROM PEOPLE WHO HATE PINEAPPLE IN FOOD."

G A H H H!



What are you, a soufflé doria from Hoshino Coffee?!

You're too soft!

"I feel like my future is constantly covered in a fog of anxiety. Do you know where I'm coming from, Minare-san?"



"AHH. MY INSIGNIFICANT EXISTENCE MIGHT BE OVER..."

...BUT I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO LEAVE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MARK ON SOMEONE'S LIFE."

GIVE ME AT LEAST ONE SERIOUS QUESTION THAT'LL MAKE ME THINK THAT, PLEASE.

READ
KOTOOSHU'S
BLOG.

IT'LL BRING
YOU MORE
COMFORT
THAN MY
HALF-ASSED
THERAPY.

"I WAS PISSED
FROM TOBACCO
WITHDRAWAL AND
PICKED A FIGHT
WITH A MIDDLE
SCHOOLER, ONLY
TO GET MY ASS
KICKED FOR TWO
HOURS STRAIGHT.
NOW BOTH MY BODY
AND HEART ARE
BRUISED. PLEASE
HELP."

OR
GET AN
AIBOARD,
MAYBE?

YOU'RE
ONLY THAT
WEAK-KNEED
BECAUSE
YOUR CORE
IS WEAK!

PICK UP
KYOKU-
SHIN
KARATE!

WE
ONLY
HAVE FIVE
MINUTES
LEFT,
TOO...

AW,
SHIT...

Kotooshu?

GYAHHHH!



"I'M A
MARRIED
OFFICE
WORKER
LIVING IN
SAPPORO."

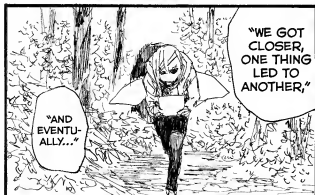
"HELLO,
MINARE-
SAN."

"26
YEARS
OLD." HUH,
WE'RE THE
SAME AGE.



UHH.
NEXT
UP...

HUFF
PUFF



"AND
EVENTU-
ALLY..."

"WE GOT
CLOSER,
ONE THING
LED TO
ANOTHER,"



"WE
HAD
SE—"

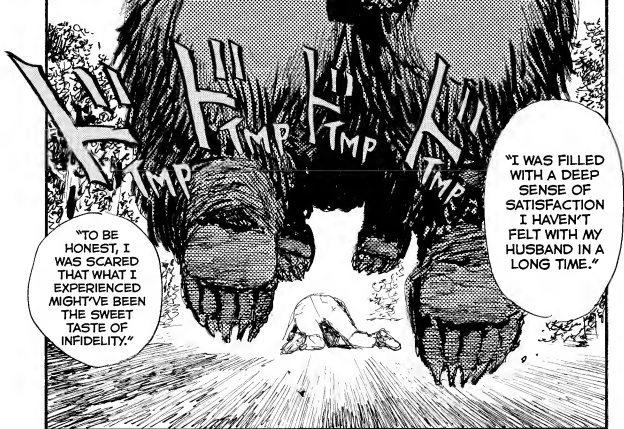


"...AN
AFFAIR."



"THERE IS A
MARRIED MAN
ONE YEAR MY
SENIOR WHO
WORKS ON
THE SAME
FLOOR AS
ME. LET'S
CALL HIM
B-SAN."

"IT TURNS
OUT WE'VE
BOTH BEEN
MARRIED FOR
THE SAME
AMOUNT OF
TIME AND ENDED
UP BONDING
OVER OUR PAST
NEWLYWED
EXPERIENCES
DURING BREAK
TIME."



"TO BE HONEST, I WAS SCARED THAT WHAT I EXPERIENCED MIGHT'VE BEEN THE SWEET TASTE OF INFIDELITY."

"I WAS FILLED WITH A DEEP SENSE OF SATISFACTION I HAVEN'T FELT WITH MY HUSBAND IN A LONG TIME."



"I TURNED HIM DOWN BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF LETTING IT BECOME A ONGOING THING."

"THREE DAYS LATER, B-SAN ASKED IF I WANTED TO GET A HOTEL WITH HIM AGAIN AS IF IT WAS THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD."



AH...



THE MOOD'S CHANGED. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET GOOD.

OOP.

I ONLY GET THE FEELING THAT MIXING'S GONNA BE A PAIN IN THE ASS.



フワフワフワフワ...

AN
ATROCIOUS
SHOW, AS
USUAL.

WHAT'S
WITH THE
YELLING?

The hell?

SHE'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE WEAK AND
OUT OF BREATH
WITH THE BEAR'S
CHEWING SOUNDS
OVER IT.



HAH!

OR-
AHHH!

BUT
PHYSI-
CALLY,
I'M MORE
COMPATI-
BLE WITH
B-SAN."

"MY
HUSBAND
IS A KIND,
EARNEST
MAN, AND
I HAVE NO
INTENTION
OF LEAVING
HIM,

NO...
I CAN
SEE IT.



MINARE-
SAN...

...IS
FIGHTING
THE BEAR.



FAITHFULNESS!

NO
GREATER
VIRTUE
EXISTS!

YOU
MUST
OPEN
YOUR
EYES!



I GAVE
INTO
LIBIDO...

...AND
CHOSE A
CUTE, BUT
UNFAITHFUL
MAN.

AND NOW
I'M HERE
FIGHTING A
BEAR.



"Should I
stay with
my loving
husband for
the rest of
my life?"

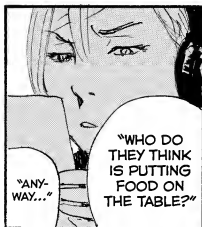
"Or should
I let my
body's
urges
take the
wheel?"



"TYPICALLY
FOR MY PRE-
BED ROUTINE,
I WANDER THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD WEARING
NOTHING BUT A
TRENCH COAT."

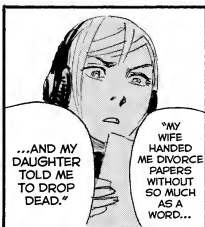
"I'M A
41-YEAR-OLD
OFFICE WORKER.
LATELY, MY BODY'S
AGING HAS BE-
COME APPARENT
AND IT HAS ME
DEPRESSED."

"HOWEVER,
THE OTHER DAY,
I WAS FINALLY
ARRESTED
DURING THE ACT.
I USED TO BE
ABLE TO ESCAPE
NO PROBLEM IN
MY THIRTIES."



"ANY-
WAY..."

"WHO DO
THEY THINK
IS PUTTING
FOOD ON
THE TABLE?"



...AND MY
DAUGHTER
TOLD ME
TO DROP
DEAD."

"MY
WIFE
HANDED
ME DIVORCE
PAPERS
WITHOUT
SO MUCH
AS A
WORD..."



"Minare-san,
would you
please give
me some
words of
encourage-
ment to put
my mind at
ease?"

WE'LL
JUST HAVE
TO TWEAK
A DOG'S.

OF
COURSE
NOT.

DO WE
HAVE A
SOUND FOR
A HURT
BEAR?

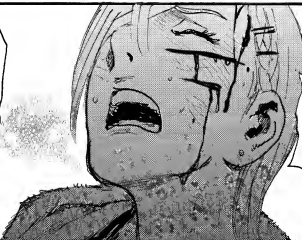
"I honestly think
that I want to
keep working
until my daughter
is an adult, even
if it means being
whipped the
whole time."



STAY ALIVE!

WHO CARES
ABOUT AGE?!
ANY SANE
PERSON WILL
TELL YOU
ANYTHING
BEFORE 60
MAKES YOU A
YOUNGSTER!

STAY
TRUE TO
YOURSELF!



...AS LONG
AS YOU LIVE
YOUR LIFE
HONESTLY,
SOMEONE IS
BOUND TO
OFFER YOU
A HELPING
HAND!

EVEN
IF YOU
STUM-
BLE,

AND HIT
ROCK
BOTTOM...



SO WHY...
DID I REACH
FOR A PIECE
OF SHIT?
THAT'S
BECAUSE...

WHO
WOULD
DO THE
SAME
FOR
ME.

THERE
ARE
SO
MANY
PEO-
PLE...

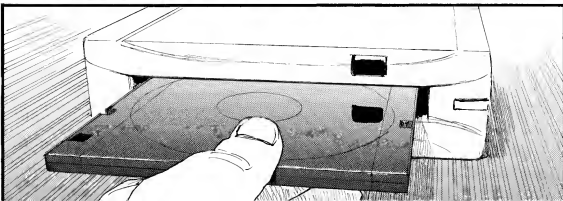
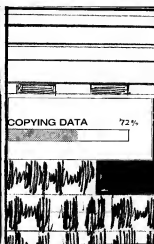
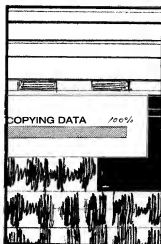
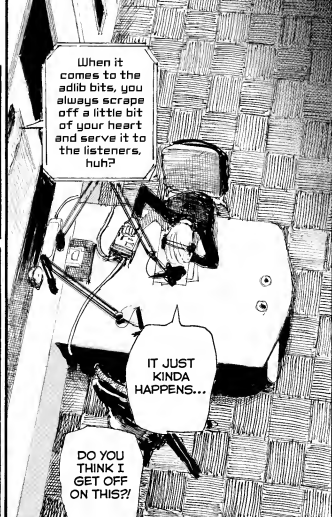


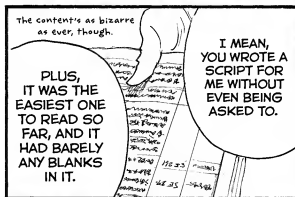
...WE
SEE OUR-
SELVES IN
OTHERS!

...WANT
TO LIVE
THAT WAY.

REALLY,
I, TOO...

NOW
THAT I
THINK
ABOUT
IT,

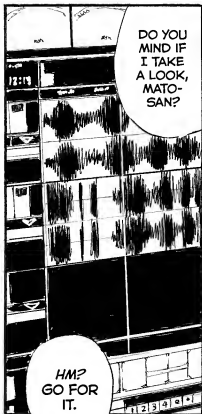






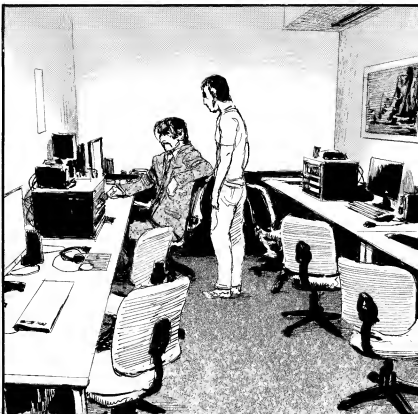
CONSIDER
IT MY FARE-
WELL GIFT.

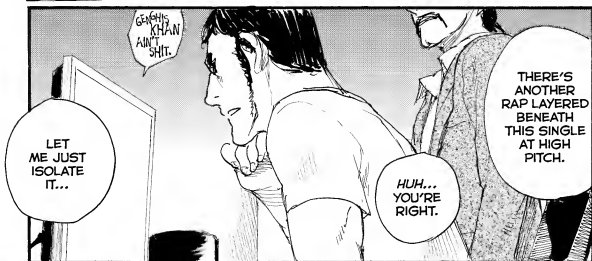
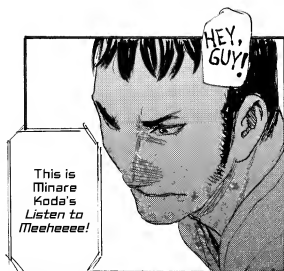
I'M
GLAD YOU
LIKED IT.

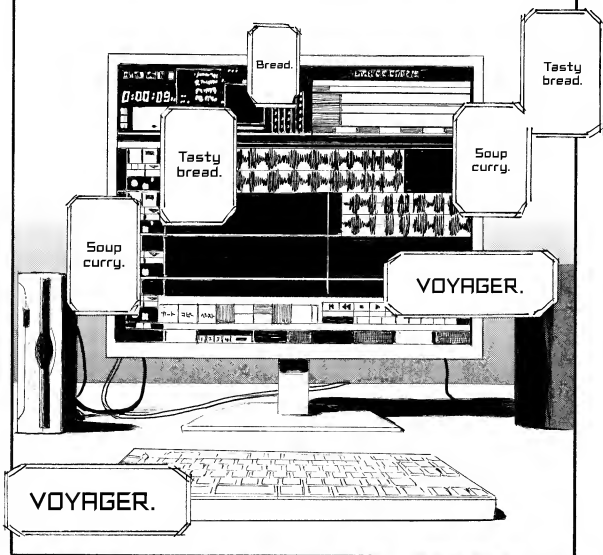


DO YOU
MIND IF
I TAKE
A LOOK,
MATO-
SAN?

HM?
GO FOR
IT.









WE
CAN'T
PLAY
THIS
ON AIR.

Sigh

Soup
curry...

...WELL,
SHIT.



MATO-
SAN...

THIS
COUNTS AS
SUBLIMINAL
ADVERTIS-
ING.



Tasty
bread.

SON
OF A
BITCH...



WE
GOTTA DO
A RETAKE.



MINARE.



IN THE END, THE DATA FOR THE SHOW ONLY MADE IT TO MASTER CONTROL AT 3:15 AM, JUST BEFORE THE SLOT TIME. THE NEXT DAY, BOTH MATO-SAN AND MINARE WERE CHEWED OUT BY KIKUKAWA-SAN, THE STATION PRODUCER. AS OPPOSED TO THE FIRST RECORDING, IN WHICH MINARE LAID HERSELF BARE WITH UNPROMPTED ADLIB, THE SHOCK OF A SECOND RECORDING LEFT HER UNENTHUSIASTICALLY FOLLOWING KUREKO'S SCRIPT TO A T, SOLEMNLY GIVING LIFE ADVICE WHILE BEING EATEN BY A BROWN BEAR.

Boos!!

